



The Hon Dan Tehan MP  
Minister for Education

Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 7350

Our Ref: MC19-003211

- 4 OCT 2019

Mayor David O'Loughlin  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor

*David,*

Thank you for your letter of 14 August 2019 regarding the resolutions carried by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) following the National Government Assembly of Local Government held from 16-19 June 2019. I appreciate the time you have taken to bring the relevant resolutions to my attention.

In relation to Resolution 61, the Australian Government understands preschool helps prepare children for school, and is particularly beneficial for disadvantaged children. This is why the Government is extending the Universal Access National Partnership (UANP) to provide \$449.5 million in Commonwealth support for preschool for 2020. This is in addition to the \$440 million already committed for 2019, bringing the current Government's total investment in preschool to \$2.8 billion since 2014.

The Government is currently working with state and territory governments to review UANP arrangements. The Review aims to ensure future preschool funding and policy settings are as effective as possible, and support all children in being confident and capable learners by the time they start school. Terms of Reference for the Review were agreed by all Education Ministers in June 2019 (see [www.educationcouncil.edu.au](http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au)). Public submissions can be made at [www.uanpreview.nousgroup.com.au](http://www.uanpreview.nousgroup.com.au) until 6 October 2019 and I encourage the ALGA to participate in this important process.

Under the Federation, preschool is the responsibility of state and territory governments, with Commonwealth funding through the UANP a contribution to increase participation rates and ensure national consistency in the number of hours available in the year before school. Accordingly, any decision to expand preschool programs to younger cohorts of children is a matter for state and territory governments. It is pleasing to see many governments are taking steps in this direction.

In relation to Resolution 63, the Department of Education administers the following programs to support access to child care in drought affected areas.

- The Additional Child Care Subsidy—Temporary Financial Hardship is a short term payment that provides child care fee assistance at a higher rate to families experiencing significant financial stress due to circumstances outside their control, to ensure continuity of care and support families when they need it most. Further information is available at [www.education.gov.au/additional-child-care-subsidy](http://www.education.gov.au/additional-child-care-subsidy)
- Community Child Care Fund (CCCF)—one-off special circumstances grants up to \$10,000 available to support the continuity of child care, in particular in disadvantaged or vulnerable communities, where service viability is affected by unforeseen circumstances outside the control of the service. Drought is considered an eligible event for the purposes of a CCCF special circumstances grant. Further information is available at [www.education.gov.au/cccf-special-circs](http://www.education.gov.au/cccf-special-circs)
- Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) Business Support is available for eligible Child Care Subsidy approved services in disadvantaged communities experiencing viability and/or sustainability issues. This is a free service delivered through business advisors, who work with eligible services to identify ways to improve their financial viability and sustainability. Further information is available at [www.education.gov.au/community-child-care-fund-business-support](http://www.education.gov.au/community-child-care-fund-business-support)

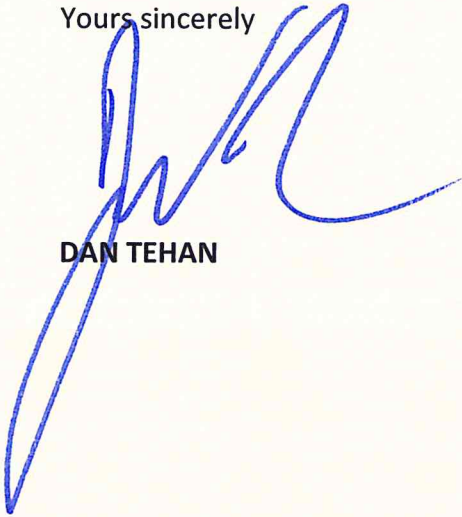
The Federal Government has a dedicated focus on supporting drought affected communities. Our new support package will deliver nearly \$100 million to drought-hit communities, which is on top of more than \$7 billion in drought support funding already provided by the Government. We are delivering \$33 million to resume the Drought Community Support Initiative, which will deliver up to \$3000 to eligible farming households experiencing hardship due to drought and we are providing a \$13 million extension to the Drought Community Programme to deliver support at the local government level.

The Government is also providing support for drought affected areas via the Child Care Subsidy (CCS). We recognise the exceptional circumstances families within drought and flood affected Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been facing. Families receiving the CCS located within the affected LGAs will be exempted from the activity test for the 2018–19 financial year, providing assistance with managing potential child care related debts. In some circumstances, families may still incur an overpayment if they have underestimated their income for the 2018–19 financial year and received more CCS than they were entitled to. Families who receive a CCS overpayment notice have a number of options in how they manage their debt, including phoning Centrelink to arrange a tailored repayment plan that suits their individual circumstances. If families require further assistance due to financial hardship, they should also contact Centrelink to discuss options.

As you are aware, state and territory governments are responsible for supporting preschools. As such, if you have not already done so, you may wish to direct your resolutions to state and territory Education Ministers. I have attached the relevant contact details to this letter and trust they will be of assistance.

Thank you for bringing these resolutions to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dan Tehan', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the text 'Yours sincerely' and above the printed name 'DAN TEHAN'.

**DAN TEHAN**

## **List of state and territory education ministers**

The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC  
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Hon James Merlino MP  
Minister for Education  
Level 3, 1 Treasury Place  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

The Hon Grace Grace MP  
Minister for Education  
PO Box 15033  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

The Hon Sue Ellery MLC  
Minister for Education and Training  
13th Floor, 2 Havelock St  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

The Hon John Gardner MP  
Minister for Education  
GPO Box 1563  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP  
Minister for Education and Training  
Level 10, 15 Murray Street  
HOBART TAS 7000

Ms Yvette Berry MLA  
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

The Hon Selena Uibo MLA  
Minister for Education  
GPO Box 3721  
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